



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Trading Pollutant Allocations – Option for storm water; EPA website** – CA storm water agencies may eventually have the option of trading pollutant allocations as a cost-effective method of meeting TMDL loadings, especially for when they are unable to meet the required reductions. For example, some agencies may have difficulty demonstrating the needed 50% reduction in mercury loading which has been assigned to urban runoff by the proposed San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL. These agencies, however, may be able to “trade” or buy their assigned loading reductions by contributing to mercury reductions elsewhere such as mine cleanup projects. When the State Board remanded this TMDL back to the Regional Board (see *NewsFlash 05-13*), they also instructed State Board staff to develop an “offset” or trading policy to provide an alternative method for dischargers to meet mercury allocations other than eliminating more mercury from their own discharges. This policy has not yet been developed so the San Francisco Board is proposing to include a re-opener provision in the revised TMDL so that permits can be revised at a later date to incorporate offset provisions.

At a recently concluded Water Quality Trading Conference, U.S. EPA announced their goal to increase the number NPDES permits that have trading provisions by 33%. Currently 93 permits, most in the Northeastern U.S., include trading provisions. EPA also plans to issue guidance on trading for the agriculture community and a trading toolkit for permit writers. EPA site: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading.htm> Presentations from the conference posted at: <http://www.envtn.org/>.

**Stream and Wetlands Policy – Water Boards post public comments** – As discussed in *NewsFlash 06-15*, the San Francisco Bay and North Coast Boards are developing Basin Plan amendments to provide protections for stream and wetlands systems, including riparian areas and floodplains. The two boards will propose a single policy intended to be a “model” for other Regional Boards. The public comments from the first workshop held by the SF Board are now posted: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/streamandwetlands.htm> Concerns included: impervious surfaces and flash runoff and effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs). Comments from the North Coast Board’s recent public workshop are also posted: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/swspp.html>

**EPA’s BMPs – Revised menu** – U.S. EPA has revised its National Menu BMPs. This listing uses a broad definition of BMPs and the listed BMPs range from pollution prevention to illicit discharge detection and elimination. The new *Menu* now includes a comment feature so that readers can provide suggestions, new data, and additional references. Posted: [www.epa.gov/npdes/menuofbmps](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/menuofbmps)

**Fish Mercury Project – First Annual Meeting** – The presentation will include the latest results from extensive sampling of thousands of sport fish and biosentinel fish, discussion of progress and plans for developing and communicating consumption advice in the Central Valley – June 13 and 14 in Sacramento. Sign-up at [www.sfei.org/cmr/fishmercury](http://www.sfei.org/cmr/fishmercury)

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. Verify information before taking action on these bulletins. Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>